



Permit and Endorsement Exemptions Report

2021-22 School Year

Tennessee Department of Education | September 2022



Introduction

[Chapter 932 of the Public Acts of 2022](#) (PC932), now codified as T.C.A. 49-5-106, authorizes the Tennessee Department of Education (department) to issue temporary teaching permits and endorsement exemptions to an expanded number of educators for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years. The law also requires the department to report to the education committees of the Tennessee General Assembly the number of temporary permits and endorsement exemptions issued in these school years.

Permits and Endorsement Exemptions

Pursuant to T.C.A § 49-5-106 and State Board of Education Chapter 0520-02-03, the Commissioner of Education is authorized to issue temporary teaching permits and endorsement exemptions to certain educators if an LEA or public charter school certifies they are unable to secure a qualified teacher with a valid license or endorsement.

Temporary Permits allow an unlicensed individual to serve as a teacher of record. The requirements for an individual to receive a temporary permit are outlined in State Board of Education Rule [0520-02-03-.12](#).

Endorsement Exemptions allow a licensed educator to teach more than two sections of one or more courses outside of their area of endorsement. The requirements for an individual to receive an endorsement exemption are outlined in State Board of Education Rule [0520-02-03-.11](#).

The flexibilities granted through T.C.A. 49-5-106 include the following for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years:

- Extended the flexibility for endorsement exemptions to be issued for courses with an end of course exam (EOC) required for graduation.
- Extended the flexibility for permits to be issued for courses with an EOC, under the condition that the individual for which the permit is requested was issued a permit for a course with an EOC in the 2021-22 academic year.

The 2021-22 school year was the first year during which permits could be issued for a course with an end of course exam, following [Chapter 326 of the Public Acts of 2021](#). No first-year permits may be issued for courses with EOCs in 2022-23 or thereafter, following the passage of PC932.

Finally, PC932 repealed flexibilities from the 2021-22 school year, which allowed emergency credentials to be issued for elementary physical education courses, restoring the prohibition on emergency credential use for elementary physical education courses in accordance with the Tom Cronan Act, codified at T.C.A. § 49-6-1021. Additionally, PC932 explicitly added language regarding the prohibition of emergency credentials for special education, in accordance with federal law. The below data reflects the number of temporary permits

and endorsement exemptions issued pursuant to PC932 for the 2021-22 school year. The department will continue to report this information for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 school years in accordance with PC932.

2021-22 School Year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)

| Credential Type | Elementary P.E. | End-of-Course (EOC) Exam | All Others Issued | Total Number Issued |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Permit | 39 | 171 | 1,750 | 1,960 |
| Endorsement Exemption | 7 | 31 | 342 | 380 |
| Total | 46 | 202 | 2,092 | 2,340 |

- Total number of endorsement exemptions issued pursuant to PC932 (includes Elementary P.E. and EOC): **38**
- Total number of temporary permits issued pursuant to PC932 (includes Elementary P.E. and EOC): **210**